



LAHORE ▼ P3

Pakistan moving towards development, claims Aleem

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NK will never give up its nuclear weapons



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President, PM for strictly following SOPs on Eid

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday urged the nation to observe precautionary measures and follow safety standard operating procedure (SOPs) during Eid days to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The President said that corona cases have significantly been declined in the country due to effective smart lockdown policies and discipline by the public. He asked the citizens to avoid going to crowds and cattle markets as more caution is required to defeat the epidemic completely. The President said the government has adopted targeted smart lockdown and poor-friendly policies and provided financial assistance to deserving families at their doorstep through Ehsaas program so they could stay at home and follow SOPs.

Another report adds: Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked the people to strictly follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Eid-ul-Azha to contain the spread of coronavirus.

In a social media message, he said sacrifice of needless visits to loved-ones will ensure safe and blessed Eid for everyone. The PM said Eid-ul-Azha is all about sacrifice and through our adherence to SOPs, we can be savior of hu-

OGRA increases LPG price by Rs1.56 per kg

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Friday has increased price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by Rs1.56 per kilogram.

According to details, the cost of LPG domestic cylinder has been hiked by Rs18.48 to sell at Rs1363.55. The new prices of the LPG will be implemented from August 1

Eid celebrated in Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries

MAKKAH: Joy and celebrations swept across Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Dubai, and other Gulf countries on Friday as Muslims observed Eid-ul-Azha amid coronavirus outbreak with religious fervour to commemorate the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (AS).

Over a billion Muslims from around the world celebrated Eid-ul-Azha, which is also known as the "Festival of the Sacrifice".

In Saudi Arabia, Eid prayers have been offered at Masjid-e-Nabvi and the Grand Mosque in Makkah. The pilgrims, who spent the whole night in the open sky offering prayers in Muzdalifa have started moving towards Mina. After reaching Mina, they will perform stoning at Jamarat Al-Aqba, sacrifice animals, shave their heads and then leave for Makkah to perform Tawaf Al-Ifada and Sai, two other pillars of Haj.

Eid is also being celebrated in Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain and Qatar. Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia are also marking the day with simplicity. Muslims living in Turkey have offered Eid-ul-Azha prayers at Istanbul's Hagia Sophia. It's the first time that Eid prayers have been taken place since the iconic building was reconverted to a mosque earlier this month. —APP

PIA hires foreign planes, pilots to restore UK flights

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) late Thursday announced plans to partially restore flight operations for the United Kingdom (UK).

The PIA flights will be partially restored from August 14 and passengers would be able to travel via direct flights to London, Manchester, and Birmingham.

According to details, the national flag carrier has hired planes from European companies along with foreign pilots to facilitate the passengers. The decision was taken after fares for UK flights from private airlines saw an unprecedented hike in the wake of the ban on national flag carrier's flight operation. The fares are likely to return to normal after the resumption of PIA flight operations. A spokesman for the national flag-carrier said that the flight schedule for the UK flights would be announced soon after Eid-ul-Azha.



GWADAR PORT: First bulk handling cargo ship carrying 17,000 tonnes DAP arrive at the Gwadar Port.

■ Rallies, renaming of Kashmir Highway planned on Yaum-e-Istihsal

Govt plans aggressive pro-Kashmir campaign on Aug 5

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday unveiled an aggressive action plan to observe the first anniversary of India's illegal action in the IIOJK on August 5 last, by holding worldwide rallies, solidarity marches led by top leadership, renaming of an inter-provincial highway, special postal stamps with hard-hitting depiction and parliamentary session.

Describing the whole chart of activities planned for the day at a media briefing here, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said as the whole Kashmiri leadership was under detention, Pakistan would forcefully raise their voice globally until the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) got their right to self-determination.

He said the Yaum-e-Istihsal would be observed on August 5 to highlight the illegal Indian action on August 5, 2019 of changing the special constitutional status of IIOJK by holding solidarity walks throughout the country to be joined by the top political leadership. Special Assistant to the PM on National Security Moeed Yousuf, who also flanked the foreign minister, besides Information Minister Senator Shibli Faraz, said President Dr Arif Alvi would lead a walk in Islamabad to be followed by his media interaction to highlight the Kashmiris' cause.

Qureshi said the government had decided to rename the Kashmir Highway, which connected the Federal Capital with Kashmir and other provinces, after Srinagar. "We are looking at Srinagar. That is

our destination," he remarked.

He said the parliamentarians and the foreign media would be taken to the Line of Control to engage them with the residents there, who had long been suffering the unprovoked firing by the Indian troops in violation of the ceasefire. He said a special postal stamp would be issued on the day to highlight the Indian aggression and human rights abuses by depicting a minor suiting over the body of his slain grandfather killed by the Indian troops in Sopore town in early July.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had committed to play the role of Kashmir's ambassador, would make a historic address to the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir after a solidarity walk also to be joined by AJK president and prime minister in Muzaffarabad.

Besides solidarity walks across the country to be led by the political leadership regardless of the political divide, a one-minute silence would also be observed at 10 am, besides after blaring of sirens, he added.

The foreign minister said the government would enhance its diplomatic outreach on the day by writing letters to the United Nations Secretary General and world leaders, besides interactions of the PM and himself with the international media.

Publication of special Op-eds in the foreign media, special campaigns through print, electronic and especially social media, and presentation of a memo to the UN representative had also been planned,

he added. The foreign minister strictly directed Pakistani envoys across the world that instead of mere indoor seminars, they would have to prove their diplomatic skills on August 5 by engaging with local media, think tanks and community to apprise them of the Indian aggression and blatant violations of repeated UNSC resolutions.

He said he would be closely monitoring the performance of embassies asking them to hold photo exhibitions, seminars, car rallies and other activities while strictly observing the local anti-COVID standard operating procedures (SOPs).

SAPM Moeed Yousuf invited the local and international media to an event on the night falling between August 4-5 at the Parliament House planned for projecting the sufferings of Kashmiri people at the hand of Modi regime. More major decisions were also in the pipeline in that regard, which would be revealed by the prime minister and foreign minister on August 4, he added.

The foreign minister said on August 5, the whole nation must give a message to their Kashmiri brethren that they were not alone rather the people of Pakistan would always support their struggle. He said August 5, 2019 added a new turn and chapter in the Kashmiris struggle as India had tried to abolish their identity through demographic apartheid, which was rejected not only by the Muslims as well as Hindu pundits and Buddhists. He said Pakistan had internationalized the Kashmir issue and exposed the Indian illegal actions. —Agencies

FBR surpasses revenue collection target by Rs57b

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected revenues of Rs.300 billion in July against the set target of Rs243 billion, surpassing the target by Rs57 billion.

The collections during first month of the current fiscal year are 125 percent of the assigned target, according to data released by the board here. According to the data, the Inland Revenue overshoot the target by Rs52 billion, whereas the Customs Wing exceeded the target by Rs.5 billion despite Rs25 billion relief given in Customs duty.

It is worth mentioning that in July 2019, the net collection of Inland Revenue had remained Rs.236 billion, said FBR in a statement. To redress the hardships of the business community caused by COVID-19, an unprecedented amount of refunds to the tune of Rs15 billion have been disbursed during July 2020, as compared to refunds of Rs.7 billion during July 2019.

The Sales Tax refunds are being issued under centralized and automated system i.e. FASTER, which has been clearing refunds to exporters within 72 hours for the first

time as committed by the government in July, 2020. This has facilitated the exporters and the industry easing off their liquidity crunch, the statement added.

According to the official figure, total customs duty collected during July, 2020 was over Rs42 billion which is six percent higher than that collected in same period of July 2019. The collection was made despite the fact that there was less than one percent growth in import values during this period.

The higher growth in FBR revenues was primarily on account of better supervision and improved administrative controls despite economic conditions caused by COVID-19 during which the country mostly remained in lockdown state.

The revenue trajectory also beat the adverse impact of governments' import compression policy, it added. The board has also been engaged with trade and industry to mitigate their genuine grievances. FBR is proactively reaching out to Trade and Industry and resolving their issues.

It has also launched an unprecedented crackdown on corruption dismissing and

suspending about a dozen officers and officials only of July 2020. —DNA

Asad lauds FBR team for July tax collection

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday hailed the excellent performance by the new team of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for surpassing the tax collection target for the month of July.

The minister, in a tweet, said the collection of Rs. 57 billion more revenue than the set target for the month of July reflected the good performance of new FBR team. "This also reflects a sharp bounce back of Pakistan economy due to a highly successful COVID control effort, allowing economic activities to resume, while on the same time other countries continue to struggle," he added.



Eid greetings

Daily The Business wishes its readers and advertisers a happy Eid greeting on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Holiday notice

The offices of Daily The Business will remain close on account of Eid-ul-Azha on Saturday (Today) and Sunday (Tomorrow). There will, therefore, be no issue of this Paper on Sunday and Monday.

First bulk handling cargo ship arrives at Gwadar: Saleem

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: In a tweet Chief of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Asif Saleem Bajwa announced that a first bulk handling cargo ship carrying 17,000 tonnes DAP arrived at the Gwadar Port on Friday being transported to Afghanistan on 550 trucks via Chamman.

He also stated that it is for the first time that bagging of bulk cargo been done locally instead of foreign ports which will boost local employment generate transport business in the country under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

FIA team formed to take action on sugar report

ISLAMABAD: An 11-member FIA investigation team has been constituted under Moin Masood to take action on Sugar Inquiry Commission Report (SICR).

The team will probe into fake export of sugar to Afghanistan. The team will also investigate money laundering matters.

Federal cabinet had accorded approval on June 23 for taking action on Sugar Commission report. Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan had ordered FBR, NAB, SECP and FIA to hold investigation. Shahzad Akbar special assistant on accountability and interior had written letters under the directives of PM.

Letters were sent to governor State Bank, Competition Commission and three provinces and sugar commission report was also forwarded to them. It has been said in the text of letter FBR should probe into benami transactions of sugar mills.

NAB should fix responsibility in the light of sugar commission report. NAB was directed to hold investigation into financial matters of sugar mills and their owners.

Another report adds: The government has decided to apply for exemption from competitive bidding process the import of 300,000 metric tonnes of sugar. —Agencies

Eid-ul-Azha to be celebrated today

ISLAMABAD: Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated across Pakistan today (Saturday) with religious fervour and traditional enthusiasm.

The day will begin with special prayers in mosques for the well-being of the Ummah and progress, prosperity, safety and security of the country. Big congregations will be held all over the country in line with SOPs introduced by the government in the wake of corona virus epidemic.

Millions of Muslims will slaughter goats, sheep, cows and camels, following the example of Prophet Ibrahim, who sacrificed his son in a show of obedience to Allah. In the Islamic lunar calendar, Eid-ul-Azha falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah. —Online

NCCH, Construction a morale booster: PM

■ Builders assure Rs 1.3 trillion economic activities, 100,000 housing units

ISLAMABAD: The National Coordination Committee on Housing, Construction and Development has turned out to be a morale booster for the builders and developers who are completely satisfied with the support being provided by the government in resolving their issues providing them a conducive environment for undertaking greater activities in the construction sector.

The assurance was made during weekly meeting of National Coordination Com-

mittee on Housing, Construction and Development held in Islamabad with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair.

With enhanced satisfaction level, 13 leading builders of the country assured the Prime Minister of launching various projects during next 4-5 months that will generate economic activities upto 1.3 trillion rupees and addition of 100,000 housing units. Besides all Chief Secretaries of the provinces leading builders and developers from Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore at-

tended the meeting to represent Association of Builders and Developers of the country.

The Prime Minister appreciated Governor State Bank for its proactive role in encouraging private banks to extend much-needed support to the construction sector. The builders and developers assured the Prime Minister that the present system will help expeditious resolution of their issues and pending approvals enabling them to undertake projects worth billions of rupees.

The Prime Minister while expressing satisfaction over the confidence of the builders community reiterated the commitment of the government to provide every possible facilities to the construction sector.

He observed that big cities serve as engine of growth and offer huge opportunities to the builders and developers. He said increased construction activities will help wealth and job creation which will enable the country to gain economic stability and reduce its debt burden. —Online

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

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|------------------|---------|
| Confirmed cases: | 278,892 |
| ICT: | 15,014 |
| Punjab: | 92,873 |
| Sindh: | 121,093 |
| KP: | 34,056 |
| Balochistan: | 11,732 |
| AJK: | 2,073 |
| GB: | 2,105 |
| Recovered: | 247,177 |
| Deaths: | 5,967 |